Before 1995, the DNC made only halting efforts to recruit and reward Native American support for the Democratic Party. Recognizing that the volunteer organizational support of Native Americans for Clinton-Gore and the financial support of the Pequots had been influential in the 1992 elections, in 1994 the DNC considered the formation of an American Indian Advisory Council and the hiring of an Indian staffer, as recommended by both NACG and the Pequots. Based on the support and success of the Pequots, the DNC leadership in 1994 also recognized the potential for other Indian gaming tribes to support the Party financially. The DNC finance chairman from 1994 through early 1995 understood that the Pequots were clearing a profit of $1 million per day at Foxwoods.[214] Prior to 1995, however, the DNC did nothing more in this regard than to designate a campaign division staffer as Native American outreach coordinator. Likewise, aside from direct, high level cultivation of the Pequots, there is no indication that the DNC assigned priority or resources to developing further financial support from the Indian community prior to the spring of 1995. The DNC finance director attributed this fact to the DNC's habit of relying on established donors for repeated support, without aggressively courting new resources.

Amidst this climate, two seemingly independent developments in 1995 focused the DNC's attention on the Native American community as a financial resource: first, Patrick O'Connor's efforts to enlist DNC support for the Minnesota and Wisconsin tribes opposing the

---

[214]*See also*, *Tribe Donates $10 Million to Planned Indian Museum,* The Washington Post, Oct. 25, 1994 at A1 ("The Pequot casino reportedly earns profits of $600 million a year."); *Indian Tribes Say Aid Comes Only To Those Who Donate to Democrats*, the New York Times, Nov. 17, 1997 at A20 ("Foxwoods Resort Casino grosses $1 million a day"); O'Brien, *Bad Bet* at 131 (Foxwoods revenue estimated at $811 million for 1995).